Most true but dreadful

ACCOUNT

FROM

SHOREDITCH,

Or a full and true

RELATION

How one John Thomson

A Hemp-dreſſer, and an Inhabitant of the Place before mentioned, being at work on *Tueſday* the 18th of this inſtant *May* in the Great Tempeſt was ſtrook for dead, with the Thunder and Lightning, his Hat being pierced thorow, the Hair ſinged off his head and breaſt, his Fleſh moſt miſerably ſcorched.

With a Relation how two Youths who were on the other ſide of [illegible] to the ſame [illegible] were beaten to the ground every time and ſcorched with the ſame Lightning.

As likewiſe many other Circumſtances of its dread Effects, Atteſted under the hands

Of Good Witneſſes, { *John Thomſon*, the party agrieved, Mr. *Gratian Bale* Chyrurgion. *Robert Lawer* who took him up.

And if any perſon is deſirous to be farther ſatisfied, they may make an enquiry in the Pariſh aforeſaid, and have the Teſtimony of ſeveral good ſufficient Houſekeepers who came to viſit him in the time of his Extremity.

With an Account of a ſtrange and prodigious ſtorm of Hail, which happened in and about *London*, on *Tueſday* the 18th of this inſtant *May*, wherein there fell ſome *Hail-ſtones* big as Pullets Eggs, and others five, ſix, ſeven and nine inches in Compaſs.

Likewiſe a Relation of a terrible Tempeſt in *Oxfordſhiere* which burnt down a great large Barn which had ſeveral Beys in it full of Corn, and all conſumed.

THe Wiſe and Omnipotent God who made this Glorious Fabrick of the World, and ſeparated all the jarring Elements from a confuſed heap or Chaos into the diſtant places that his Wiſdome had aſſigned; thereby to make a ſetled Peace and Concord in the Univerſe, commanded Fire, as being

far

more light and ſubtil than the reſt to mount aloft, and place ſelf in the ſupreameſt Region: from whence ſince the Creation, has loud-mouth'd Thunders and ſwift Lightnings ſtrayed; for hot exhalations by the Suns Attractive Rayes being drawn rom Earth aſcend; but proving too groſs and humid to joyn with that pure Element, they find a quick Repulſe and ſo forced headlong down to Earth again; but meeting oft with oppoſitions in the Ayry Regions by reaſon of moiſt thick Clouds, the plunging Fires with horrid noiſe roul in the waterry Fleeces of the Skies, till at laſt breaking thorow, dart their ſwift Flames from Eaſt to Weſt, whil'ſt that Body of fire with irreſiſtable Force and impetuous Violence breaks and rends in pieces ſollid Oaks, Iron, Steel, or Rocks of Adament; wounds or kills what e're aliue it happens on. For the former of which we have an ample Preſident of its dread efects to make known unto the World which happened in the laſt great Thunder-ſtorm on *Tueſday* the 18 of this inſtant *May*, the which was ſo terrible that Natures ſelf did ſeem to groan, as if the whole Elements were huddleing themſelves once more to Chaos, as all who were not drowned in perpetual ſloath may teſtify with fear and reverence unto the great Creator of the Univerſe. The ſad Relation of which is as followeth. On *Tueſday* the 18. about 8 in the Morning, one *John Thom*, by Trade a Hemp-dreſſer, being about that honeſt employment for the ſupport and maintainance of himſelf and Family in a workhouſe not far from his dwelling and hearing the bellowing Thunders rend the Clouds o're his Head, began to be in ſome Conſternation, in reflecting upon the words of the *Pſalmiſt*, where it is ſaid, *The Lord thundred from Heaven, and the moſt higheſt uttered his Voice, &c.* when loe the winged Fire broke from a yielding Cloud, and with ſwift motion entring at the window of the Shop, ſtruck him to the Ground with ſuch a force as if a Cannon had been diſcharged againſt him; where he for ſome time lay for dead, not being able to relieve himſelf by Speech or motion, till at laſt by the crying out of his Son, a young Youth, whom he had placed behiud the Dore, being fearful of the Lightning, his Wife with ſeveral Neighbours came runing in, who finding him ſenceleſs, on the Floor, ſtood amazed at the ſad and diſmal Accident, till by the Sulpherous ſmell, and Brimſtonelike fume, that ſcented all the place, began to think the Truth of what had happened, and taking up the lifeleſs Corps (as they ſuppoſed) found the Lightning had cauſed the ſuddain harm; but having raiſed him, he began by Degrees

to

to Breath, but long it was ere he recovered Sence, many of thoſe that came to behold the woful ſpectacle, by reaſon of the horrible ſmell of Brimſtone that the place contained would not come near him, but he being by ſome kin'd *Samaritan* conducted home, he was by an able Chyrurgeon after his being ſtript ſearched, who found as followeth, *viz.* That the Thunder fire had ſtruck directly on his Head, and entring through the Crown of his Hat, making there a great hole, and ſinging his Hair, on the right ſide and paſſing thence did the like upon his Breaſt, running directly to his Navel: ſcorching his Head and leaving a long ſtreak of parched fleſh and skin from the Throat to the middle of his Belly, and the like on his right Hip about four Inchs long and three Inches broad.

When he fell he had a handful of Hemp, that he was Working upon in his Hand which he held faſt, when his Wife and one *Robert Lazer*, with ſeveral others came to his aſiſtance: after much Rubbing and taking of ſeveral reviving Cordials, He came to himſelf, but yet ſo ſtupid that he knew not what had happened to him, till he was informed by the People there preſent: but crying out lamentably that *He was on fire in his Bowels*, and that it would conſume him, deſiring that he might have ſomething to allay the ſcorching heat his Intrails contained: for a conſiderable time he was deprived of the uſe of his Limbs, not being able to ſtir them: but after ſeveral applications proper in that Caſe by an experienced Chyrurgion, they were brought to their former Motions and Office: the Thunder ſmell or Sulphurous ſcent, was ſo ſtrong upon all parts of his Cloaths and Body; as alſo the place where this Dread hap befel that in a whole day, it could not be extinguiſhed: as likewiſe a certain unuſual heat overſpred him, as if a glowing fire within had flamed through every part: Many hundreds from the adjacent place have been to ſee him, and deplore his ſad Condition: for ſure it muſt be dreadful indeed, and greatly to be wondered at thus to cruſh poor Mortals here below, no doubt it is to make all ſenſible that he is a God at hand, as well as a farr off, and that the ends of the Earth are his and all that dwell in them, *&c.* In two days ſpace the Internal heat left him, ſo that it is thought through the mercys of a never failing God, He may recover his former Health, and live to render Praiſes and Thanſgiving, for his ſo Miraculous and Wonderful deliverance, and near eſcape from Death. Then how have we need to prepare our ſelves for our diſſolution and entry upon a vaſt Eternity, for none are ſure how many Moments they can count of Life, or how few Sands their fatal Glaſs has yet to run, various are the Pathes that lead to Death, beſet with Snares on either hand, and when we think we tread the moſt ſecure, a ſuddain guſt of Fate comes on, and wafts us to Eternity, and then all time for Preparation fails: therefore while it is, to day, let all ſo Live as when Death comes, his Terrours may be turned into Smils, and we may look upon his Ghaſtly Face with Joy, as the only guide to Uſher us into eternal Bliſs.

But farther to our purpoſe, two young Lads being on the other ſide of the Work-houſe where this Lightening came, and juſt coming down a pair of Stairs, there being only a ſlight Partition between, the Lightening burſt in, and threw them to the Ground, Burning one ſide of one of their Wigs, and through Providence paſſed away, without doing them any further harm, So that all may ſee the its admirable effects, and plainly deſcern the reſtrainidg Arm of the Almighty: Who can ſay to thoſe raped Flames, as to the Raging Seas, this is your bounds, hithero ſhall you paſs, and no farther.

Not long after this ſad accident befel, and the prodigeous guſts of Thunder and Lightening was overpaſt, but again dark Clouds from the South Weſtern Skies arroſe, and driven before the Winds came on a pace with their ſable Veils ſhrouding the Suns bright Face, when loe, an unexpected Storm of Hail deſcended, with ſuch impeteous violenr, and with ſuch magnitude as might amaze Mankind, the like not being ſeen in *England* before, ſo ſwift and ſuddain that

many

many people were surprised by it, in the street and fields, and before they could get shelter, had not only their Heads broke Faces cut, so pelted that they were obleiged to keep their Beds for a day or two after, many thousand Windows being broke and shatered by the Hail-stones, as likewise Tiles and Slates from Houses, almost in every Street, so that the damage sustained in and about this City of *London* is uncountable, and yet more dreadful in the Countries Westward, where it fell before it came to us, for in many fields the Corn lyes cut in peices as if mowed, young Plants and Trees broaken and destroyed, Birds and Beast lamed and killed without number: and had not that God whose goodness never fails been pleased to put a Period to its fury and falling force, tis greatly thought it might have layed wast many Fields: So that the painful Husbandman in Vain might have expected the fruits of his Industry: But the Almighty in the midst of judgment remembred Mercy, and forgot not his ancient Loving kindness to this Land: many of the Hail stones being measured were found to be no less then nine Inches in Compass and in sundry forms and shapes, some round, some long, others oval, representing various shapes and figures but however they were: no man now alive, ever beheld the like before: Therefore may we admire the Handy-works of God, and with the Princely Prophet say, Thy Wonders are in the deep, and thy ways past finding out: this is the Lords doings, and it is marvellous in our Eyes, for sure it is we have great cause to humble our selves befor the eternal of God all the Earth, for his many mercys and peculiar favours he has vouchsafed to express the signal tokens of his Love to us by in averting all the Threatning storms of fate, that hang lowering over our Heads, and turning them upon those, that sought with eagerness our ruin and destruction.

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